

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MATT WINN CONTENDERS MAJOR FED, MAXFIELD FINALIZE PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT SATURDAY'S ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY RACE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, May 16, 2020) – Lloyd Madison Farms' TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade II) fourth-place finisher **Major Fed** completed his last major workout on Saturday morning at Churchill Downs with a half-mile move in :51.40 prior to taking aim at the \$150,000 Matt Winn (GIII) – worth 50-20-10-5 points to the Top 4 finishers on the Road to the Kentucky Derby – on Saturday, May 23. Meanwhile, 72 miles east of Churchill Downs, **Godolphin**'s Grade I-winning **Maxfield** worked a swift half-mile in :47.20 at Keeneland.

Under exercise rider **Lindsey Hebert**, Major Fed worked over the sloppy surface at 5:30 a.m. He began his work with opening fractions of :13, :38.60 and galloped out five furlongs in 1:04.80 on Churchill Downs clocker **John Nichols**' watch.

"It gives us a lot of excitement to have a horse like him in our barn," trainer **Greg Foley** said. "He's fit so this morning's work was just a little maintenance. He's getting better every day and that's what makes us so excited about him and his future."

Major Fed, a 3-year-old homebred-son of Ghostzapper, experienced significant traffic trouble after being relegated to last in the early stages of the Louisiana Derby but finished a fast-closing fourth under jockey **Joel Rosario**.

"He ran hard in both the Louisiana Derby and in the Risen Star when he finished second," Foley said. "We just need to catch a good trip and our time will come."

The Matt Winn Stakes was one of the first races Churchill Downs announced on its extended Road to the Kentucky Derby calendar. The 1 1/16-mile race will feature likely favorite **Maxfield**, who is slated to make his first start in more than seven months following a win in the \$500,000 Breeders' Futurity (GI).

"We were able to beat the rain this morning (at Keeneland)," said trainer **Brendan Walsh**, who splits his string of horses between Keeneland and Churchill Downs. "We'll ship to Churchill in a few days and get ready for Saturday."

Other horses likely to enter the Matt Winn include Withers Stakes (GIII) winner **Max Player** and undefeated **Pneumatic**. Entries will be taken on Wednesday for Saturday's card.

TRAINERS CONTINUE TO SETTLE INTO CHURCHILL DOWNS; MORE THAN 1,100 HORSES ON GROUNDS – The backstretch at Churchill Downs and its satellite facility Trackside Louisville is nearing capacity with more than 1,100 horses arriving on the grounds.

Business picked up during training Saturday morning and even under rainy conditions, the work tab featured 32 horses recording published breezes. Several trainers pushed their works back to Sunday due to inclement weather. The Sunday tab is likely to feature several horses from the barns of trainers **Steve Asmussen** and **Brad Cox**.

STAKES NOMINATIONS – Stephen Foster Preview Day on Saturday, May 23 at Churchill Downs is highlighted by five stakes including the \$150,000 Matt Winn (Grade III) worth 50-20-10-5 points to the Top 4 finishers on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. Other stakes on the card are the \$100,000 Blame (4-year-olds and up at one-mile); \$100,000 War Chant (3-year-olds at one-mile on turf); \$100,000 Tepin (3-year-old fillies at one-mile on turf); and \$100,000 Shawnee (fillies and mares at 1 1/16 miles).

Here are the early probable entrants, according to Churchill Downs' assistant racing secretary and stakes coordinator **Dan Bork** (with trainers):

- \$150,000 Matt Winn (GIII): **Crypto Cash** (Kenny McPeek); **Major Fed** (Greg Foley); **Max Player** (Linda Rice); **Maxfield** (Brendan Walsh); **Necker Island** (Stanley Hough); **Pneumatic** (Steve Asmussen); **Shake Some Action** (Brad Cox).
- \$100,000 Blame: **Alwaysmining** (Kelly Rubley); **Backyard Heaven** (Mike Maker); **Bourbon Resolution** (Ian Wilkes); **Global Campaign** (Hough); **Long Range Toddy** (Dallas Stewart); **Mr. Money** (Bret Calhoun); **Owendale** (Cox); **Wind of Change** (Efren Loza Jr.).
- 100,000 Shawnee: **Awe Emma** (Stewart); **Dunbar Road** (Chad Brown); **Motion Emotion** (Richard Baltas).

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- \$100,000 Tepin: **Abscond** (Eddie Kenneally); **Dominga** (Cox); **Heir of Light** (Norm Casse); **Jezebel's Kitten** (Cox); **Outburst** (Kenneally); **Pass the Plate** (Paul McGee); **Queen of God** (Maker); **Sharing** (Graham Motion).
- \$100,000 War Chant: **Fenwick Station** (Kenneally); **Field Pass** (Maker); **Hieronymus** (Cox); **Shared Sense** (Cox); **Street Ready** (Wilkes); **Turned Aside** (Rice).

CHURCHILL DOWNS TO OFFER FREE BRISNET PAST PERFORMANCES THE ENTIRETY OF THE SPRING MEET – Churchill Downs will offer handicappers free Brisnet past performances courtesy of Ford each day of the 26-day Spring Meet.

Horseplayers can visit www.churchilldowns.com/racing-handicapping/handicapping/expert-picks for complementary Brisnet past performances along with daily expert selections from **Ed DeRosa**, **Joe Kristufek** and **Scott Shapiro** of TwinSpires.com and several other handicapping tips including workouts of the day from expert clocker **Bruno DeJulio**.

SUNDAY TV – The racing action from Churchill Downs Racetrack throughout the 2020 Spring Meet will be broadcast on FOX Sports’ “America’s Day at the Races,” which will air every race day on either FS1 or FS2.

Produced by the New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) in partnership with FOX Sports, “America’s Day at the Races” is the acclaimed national telecast presenting coverage and analysis of the best racing from around the country.

Sunday, May 17

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (FS2)
2:00 - 6:00 p.m. (FS1)
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. (FS2)

“America’s Day at the Races” is hosted by **Greg Wolf** and **Laffit Pincay III** and this weekend’s broadcast team includes **Andy Serling**, **Maggie Wolfendale**, **Gary Stevens**, and **Jonathon Kinchen**.

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